

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet zone)

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Cottbus Airfield

EVALUATION 25X1

PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 13 to 26 February 1952

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 11 March 1952

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Between 11:30 a.m. and noon on 16 February 1952, [redacted] landing of a twin-jet plane and, shortly afterwards, the take-offs of two twin-jet planes at Cottbus airfield. Thirty-six Pe-2s which were previously parked in front of the hangars were counted in the northeastern section of the field. Many air force officers and EM who wore well tailored uniforms were observed in Cottbus. It was noticed that EM who had probably arrived recently from the U.S.S.R. were allowed to visit the town. From their purchases and the fact that they could not speak German at all, [redacted] they had never been in Germany before. *

2. [redacted] A group of Russian civilians, between 17 and 20 years old, who were probably organized in a labor brigade, were observed at the field. According to a German employed at the field, they were employed as air force technical personnel. At night, the noise of running jet engines was heard from the direction of the hangars. **

3. On 24 February, the field was occupied by 38 Pe-2s, 3 Pe-2s with two cabins, 3 twin-engine planes with nose wheels, and 3 jet bombers. There was no flying in rainy weather.

4. Between 11 a.m. and 3:20 p.m. on 26 February, three type-27 jet bombers made practice flights. There was a 8/10 overcast, a cloud base at about 500 meters and a visibility of about 12 km. The take-off run was from 1,000 to 1,100 meters while a strip of 1,600 to 1,800 meters was needed for landing because the planes had too much speed when touching ground. [redacted] A radio truck was parked at the eastern end of the runway. No change was observed in the aircraft strength. No weapons could be observed in the rear gunner's stations of the jet bombers. The forward gunner's compartment was made entirely of plexiglass. The wheels of the landing gear were slightly tilted to the outside. Neither a rod antenna nor a braced antenna was observed. Before training with jet bombers, the crews, who previously flew Pe-2s, probably trained on twin-engine planes with nose wheels having a high landing speed. ***

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- 25X1 [] Comment. The report confirms the occupation of Cottbus airfield by a bomber regiment which is equipped with about 40 Pe-2s. The regiment is being reequipped with type-27 planes, three of which have already arrived at the field.
- 25X1 [] Comment. It has not been determined whether the civilians observed are merely Russian workers who replaced German personnel previously employed at airfields in the Soviet Zone of Germany.
- 25X1 [] Comment. It has been previously believed that all type-27 planes are equipped with weapons in the rear gunner's station, an antenna mast behind the cabin and an antenna aft of the rudder assembly.

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